

# Grass Lake



## General Lake Information

Grass Lake Association  
[www.grasslakeassociation.org](http://www.grasslakeassociation.org)

**Location:** Town of Rossie / Town of Theresa

**County:** St. Lawrence / Jefferson

**Basin:** St. Lawrence River

**Size:** 319.9 acres

**Watershed Area:** 2,359.6 acres

**Lake Origin:** Natural

**Retention Time:** 2.1 years

**Mean Depth:** 23.6

**Max Depth:** 50.5

**Public Access:** DEC Cartop Ramp, *Max 10hp is strongly encouraged by the Grass Lake Association.*

**Fish Species Present:** Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Tiger Muskellunge, Northern Pike, Walleye, Yellow Perch, Bluegill, Brown Bullhead

**WQ Classification:** C – non-contact recreation

**Major Tributaries:** no named tributaries, spring fed

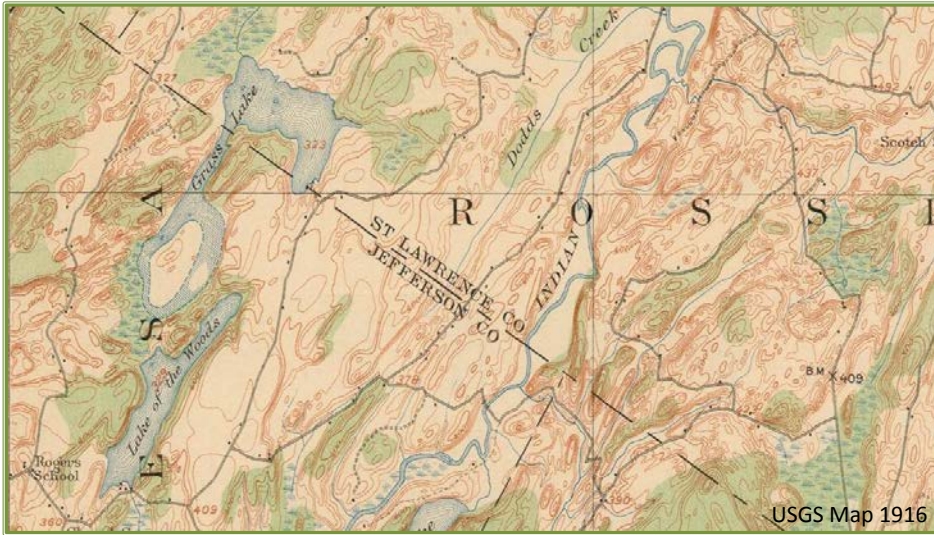
**Lake Tributary To...** Grass Creek to Black Lake to Oswegatchie River to St. Lawrence River

**Lake Outlet Latitude:** 44.344

**Lake Outlet Longitude:** -75.716

**CSLAP Participant:** Yes

**Sampling Years:** 2004 - 2015



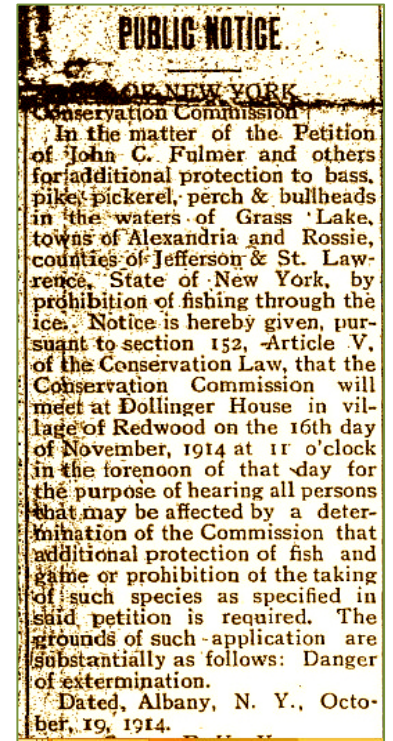
## Grass Lake - Its History

Called **O-sa-ken-ta-ke** by the St. Regis Mohawk; the name translates to what we call it today – Grass Lake. Grass Lake was likely formed through glacial processes about 10,000 years ago. Some of the earliest records of the lake date back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In 1889, H.H. Thompson, from Brooklyn, wrote an article in *The American Angler* detailing a trip made to Grass Lake. He calls it “one of the best lakes for black bass and pickerel in this state.” There are countless other mentions of plentiful and large fish in Grass Lake during this period. There has been a historical legacy of managed use on Grass Lake. Stocking fish on the lake dated back to 1881, when a consignment of pickerel were added. Between 1914 and 1930 a series of petitions submitted by local residents asked the state to add additional fishing regulations to Grass Lake on the grounds that the fish were “in danger of extermination;” the regulations were granted.

Today, though additional fishing regulations and a fish stocking program are still in place, pressures such as eutrophication and invasive species pose a threat to the function and utility of this natural resource.

*A Scenario-Based Framework for Lake Management Plans: A Case Study of Grass Lake & A Management Plan for Grass Lake by: Owen Angle*

**Grass Lake Association** was formed due to concerns over rising water levels and the resulting property damage. Lake property owners and their families, about 32 cottages including 3 permanent homes, work on water quality, fish stocking, and participate in the CSLAP program. CSLAP volunteers sample lake water every 2 weeks over the summer months. Each lake receives an annual report with water quality details.



GLA is also a member of NYSFOLA, NY State Federation of Lake Associations, whose goal is to protect water resources through public outreach, education, sharing information and partnerships.

